

REMARKS

This application was filed with 25 claims. Claims 1-14 were previously canceled, claims 15, 25, and 26 previously amended, and claims 26 and 27 previously added. Claims 17-24 were withdrawn from consideration in response to a Restriction Requirement. Thus, claims 15, 16, and 25-27 are currently pending.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended claim 15 to delete the comma in line 4 after the word "computer", which the Examiner indicated created an ambiguity in the claim. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the amended claims.

Claim Rejections – §112

Claims 15-16 and 25-27 were rejected under §112, second paragraph. The Examiner indicated that the comma in claim 15, line 4, after "computer" renders the step b) vague. Claim 15 has been amended to delete that comma, so as to clarify the intent that the "categorizing" is an act to be performed within the computer. With this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the §112 rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - §102

The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 25 and 26 based upon Gong et al 5,935,783, but the Examiner indicated that this rejection was "Due to the amended comma in claim 15 which renders step b) unclear ...".

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendment of claim 15, this ambiguity has been eliminated, and that Gong et al. can no longer be argued to anticipate these claims.

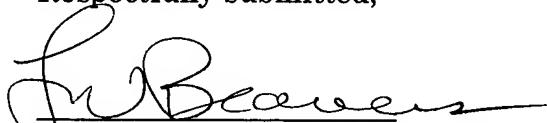
According reconsideration is requested, along with an early indication of the allowance of claims 15-16 and 25-27.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account 23-0035.

Confirmation of Interview Schedule

This will confirm, per the telephone call of the undersigned with Examiner Carolyn Smith, that a telephone interview has been tentatively scheduled between the undersigned and Examiners Smith and Arden Marshall for Tuesday, October 5, 2004, at 11:00 AM EST. The undersigned will place the call to Examiner Marshall's office at 571-272-0718 at that time.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response To Final Office Action And Confirmation Of Interview Schedule is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Claire Rebecca Ulanoff

9-21-04

Date